

# MESSAGE GUIDE

## REBOOT: THE SYMPHONIC CHURCH

1 Corinthians 12



August 12, 2018

### CONNECT

- What is one of the favorite gifts you've *given* to someone? What is one of the favorite gifts you've *received* from someone?

### STUDY

After several chapters of sharp criticism, Paul used chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians to paint a picture of what it takes for a church to function in a healthy, life-giving manner. Give the chapter a read-through, and then use the following questions to deepen your understanding and application of God's Word.

- What reason does Paul give for providing the instruction found in chapter 12? What can happen if the people of a church are fundamentally unaware of Biblical doctrine and practice?
- In verses 4-5 Paul writes about some things being different (indicating diversity), and some things being the same (indicating unity). Paul picks up this theme of same/different in verses 12-13. Why is it important for the church body to be blessed with a variety of gifts rather than just one type? How does Ephesians 4:3-6 speak to the areas that are the same for every believer?
- How do the various types of gifts described in 1 Corinthians 12: 7-11 help build up the church and strengthen her ministry? Extra thought: are all the types of spiritual gifts found in 1 Corinthians 12, or are there other places in the Bible that describe *other types of gifts*?

- How does Paul (in 1 Corinthians 12:14-26) use the example of a human body to make his point about how the church should approach and employ spiritual gifts? Why is his example so effective?

- Read what Paul writes in verse 26. How does that look in the life of the church?

### APPLY

- Why is unity so important to the health of the church? Why is diversity also vital for church health? Why is it hard to sometimes balance unity and diversity?
- In your Christian practice, do you value unity or diversity more? Why? Do you think you could be better balanced? How
- Is it possible to employ our spiritual gifts in a wrong way? What are some ways our God-given gifts might be misused?
- How has someone's use of their spiritual gift blessed you? Do you know what gift God has given to you?